

September, 2010

### President's Message



By Patrice Spath, BA, RHIT,  
OrHIMA President  
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*“Know where to find the information and how to use it – that’s the secret of success.”*

- Albert Einstein

Long ago HIM professionals were known as record librarians. Record librarians catalogued and maintained paper records so physicians, nurses and other caregivers could readily get needed information for patient care purposes. Over the years our titles have changed and the information we catalogue and maintain has expanded and transformed.

Our profession is in the midst of yet another evolution. On September 29<sup>th</sup> the AHIMA House of Delegates will be voting on a bylaws amendment that adds “informatics” to the association name. It has been proposed that the name of AHIMA be changed to the American Health Informatics and Information Management Association (AHIIMA). Your Board agreed to add OrHIMA to the list of 19 other component state associations supporting this name change. There will certainly be differences of opinion about the name change expressed at the delegate meeting and passage of this amendment is not a sure thing. Let us know what you think about the proposal so our delegates can represent your views as well as those of the Board.

Another evolution that affects many OrHIMA members is the transition to ICD-10/PCS. While this new coding system will not be implemented until 2013, we must start preparing now. OrHIMA is working closely with the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems to coordinate transition activities with other healthcare professional groups in the state. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our expertise and assert our leadership.

Gone are the days of the record librarian and perhaps we'll soon be known as informatics as well as information management specialists. Yet, the secret to our success remains the same – we know where to find information and we know how to use it!

## **OrHIMA Distinguished Member Nominations**

The Distinguished Member Award honors an OrHIMA member for notable and enduring contributions and service to the association and the profession. To be considered for the award, an individual must be a member in good standing of AHIMA/OrHIMA. In addition the person must meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Fifteen years of service as an active HIM professional;
- At least ten years of service to the OrHIMA and/or the AHIMA as a board member or officer, committee chairman or member, project manager or member, council member, etc.
- Has made a contribution to the HIM profession through activities such as publication, education, systems design, public relations, research, etc.

Distinguished Member nomination forms are available on the Oregon COP on the AHIMA website or you can email Patrice Spath at [Patrice@brownspath.com](mailto:Patrice@brownspath.com) to obtain a nomination form. Deadline for submission of nominations: January 1, 2011.

## **OrHIMA Strategic Plan**

Your Board members met for an all-day strategic planning meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Results of member surveys conducted at the annual spring meeting and the strategic direction of AHIMA were considered in developing the following strategic priorities for OrHIMA:

- Identify and collaborate with health informatics and information management activities within the state
- Support members with current HIM information and introduce future roles
- Increase ICD-10/PCS and EHR educational offerings
- Collaborate with CAHIIM approved or accredited education programs for student recruitment
- Validate what is a value to our members and develop a plan to meet these needs
- Enhance communication to and from members through informative and timely media
- Ensure positive volunteer experiences and increase the number of volunteers
- Evaluate the current association infrastructure and recommend changes necessary to meet future member needs

These priorities will influence association activities over the next 1-3 years. What does this mean for OrHIMA members? Expect to see more e-mail communications on HIM related hot topics specific to Oregon (be sure we have your current email address). Expect to be asked more often for your opinion on issues of importance to Oregon HIM professionals. Expect an expansion of traditional and non-traditional educational and networking initiatives.

There will also be more volunteerism opportunities that can foster your professional development, career enhancement and personal growth. If you would like to be involved in any of these strategies, volunteers are always welcome. Contact Patrice Spath at [Patrice@brownspath.com](mailto:Patrice@brownspath.com) or contact a Board member. The roster of 2010-11 Board

members and other OrHIMA volunteers has been posted on the Oregon COP on the AHIMA website.

## 2010-11 OrHIMA Board of Directors



(front row): **Yvonne Stiller, Dody Burke, Joanne Valerius**; (back row): **Christina Grijalva, Debra Harris, Gwen Jimenez, Sarah Hall, Patrice Spath, Bonnie Altus, Laurie Tanita**

The BOD contact information is posted on AHIMA's website under the Oregon CoP. We are here to serve you, our members, so tell us what you think and how you want to be involved.

### **Are You Registered for the Fall Institute?? Check it out.**

By Yvonne Stiller, Education Director  
[yvones@mcmc.net](mailto:yvones@mcmc.net)

There are a range of topics presented by experts in their field. Topics include: ICD-10; coding E/M levels; documentation and coding for wound ostomy; excisional debridement documentation and coding; privacy, security and business associates; and Oregon's HITOC activities.

Registrations will be accepted the day of the conference.

### **AHIMA Summer Team Talks**

By Laurie Tanita, BSHA, RHIT, CCS, OrHIMA President-Elect  
[laurie.tanita@providence.org](mailto:laurie.tanita@providence.org)

On July 16th, 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> four members of OrHIMA Board of Directors attended the AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The theme of the Conference was *"Real Change Calls for Real Leadership"*. A variety of subjects were covered during the weekend and OrHIMA representatives split off in different directions in the hope of covering most of the topics.

During the Summer Team talks on Friday, AHIMA presented their 18 month strategy plan. The strategic plan included ideas for serving all stakeholders, creating a positive

impact, evolving the infrastructure and employing resources to advance organizational effectiveness. A key next step for AHIMA is to develop a definition of health informatics, which is important because AHIMA wants to incorporate the idea of Health Informatics into the recommended new mission statement. Also introduced during the Summer Team talks was the topic of present state value chain of AHIMA to its members and what that value chain will look like in the coming years. This led to a table exercise of a value chain for the state associations, and discussion surrounding what will make OrHIMA and all the other state associations valuable to its members in future years.

The Leadership Conference was held on Saturday and Sunday. Between OrHIMA's four representatives, many of the sessions were attended. Some of the sessions we attended are Board of Director Best Practices, Update on Regional Extension Centers, Advocacy, and Volunteer Leadership Development, just to name a few. AHIMA also had a speaker on the fiduciary responsibilities of the boards of state associations. This was an excellent and informative presentation. Of course many of the sessions and discussions focused on the implementation of ICD-10. This gave us many ideas for ways to assist our members in Oregon with this important change that will be taking place.

The Summer Team Talks and the Leadership Conference will help the OrHIMA Board of Directors in planning our own strategic plan and focus our attention on the ideas which will be of the most value to our members.

### **Call for Nominations for OrHIMA Board**

By Staci Coy, RHIA, CHPS, CCS, Nominating Committee Chair  
[staci.coy@capellahealth.com](mailto:staci.coy@capellahealth.com)

Be a Volunteer!

We need your name for our 2011 OrHIMA ballot!

Yes, YOUR NAME! You are an integral part of our association and you have opinions and expertise to offer! We are putting together our ballot for the 2011 year. There are several positions that need to be filled. Do any of them pique your interest? If not yours, do you know of anyone that would be great in that position? We'd like to hear from you. Please email your willingness to volunteer or names of associates that you'd recommend to [staci.coy@capellahealth.com](mailto:staci.coy@capellahealth.com) or any of the Board of Directors. You can make a difference!

#### 2011 Positions:

President Elect (3 years total)

Secretary - 1 year commitment

Director of Advocacy - 2 year position

Director of Public Relations - 2 year position

OrHIMA Nominee to the AHIMA Nominating Committee

## **HITOC Update:**

On September 3rd, two of the OrHIMA Directors, Gwen Jimenez, RHIA, Director of Advocacy and Christina Grijalva, RHIT, Secretary were notified by Carol Robinson, State Coordinator for Health IT Director, HITOC of their appointments to the Legal and Policy Workgroup of HITOC. Gwen and Christina will each serve a one year term; their work begins Phase I of the project. The first meeting is September 29th.

HITOC received many strong applications and attempted to include a range of expertise and a cross section of stakeholders on each of the workgroups. The full list of appointments to the HITOC workgroups is posted on the HITOC website.

[http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HITOC/Phase\\_1/Workgroups/WG\\_Roster.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HITOC/Phase_1/Workgroups/WG_Roster.pdf)

Gwen and Christina will be seeking your input as their team addresses legal and policy issues around the HITOC initiatives.

## **CoP Update**

By: Tracy Stott, RHIT, OrHIMA CoP Co-Facilitator  
[tlstottrhit@yahoo.com](mailto:tlstottrhit@yahoo.com)

Hello Friends: The CoP is alive and well. The new format makes things interesting, but if you spend just a little time, you can quickly find your way around. Recently I found that if you click on the Help icon, it will direct you to a .pdf file and a video that will teach you the basics.

On the front personal page you will find the most recent thoughts and questions posted. There is a conversation about starting an HIM career, someone asking if it is time to start their Bachelors program, where to go and is it worth it...if you have the same question, there are plenty of answers here. There is a question about stopping the AHIMA Journal from coming to our mailboxes, after all, we are going green aren't we? There are questions like why not internships online or in person and questions about dress code in our work places.

As a facilitator, I would like to know your opinions on my past posts of interviews of various members. There were not many who read them then, what about now? What would you like to see? Come on in to AHIMA.org and go to our Oregon CoP. Tell us what is on your mind so we can help you make the OrHIMA CoP work for you.

## **Public Relations**

By Joanne Valerius, MPH, RHIA, Public Relations Director  
[valerius@ohsu.edu](mailto:valerius@ohsu.edu)

Our profession is in a growth mode. With the mandate for electronic health records within a few years, the need for professionals with our skills is abundant. Some statistics would estimate upwards to 70,000 in workforce needs. In order to fulfill the workforce needs we need to encourage others to continue their education in the health information field. If you become aware of health fairs in your local area, please consider hosting a table that would market our field. The public relations committee can send you brochures about programs in the state as well about information from AHIMA. We also have OrHIMA pens for giveaway at the table.

One possibility for marketing our profession is to offer to speak at senior centers, community meetings, high schools, and colleges. Another idea is to partner with local television stations; many local stations welcome public service announcements and

interview appearances on their morning shows. Our profession is in need of your support in order to meet the workforce needs. Please consider doing some marketing in your local area.

The Public Relations Committee also needs more volunteers. Two hours a month of your time would be a valuable contribution. If you're looking for more opportunities to be involved, please consider it. For more information, contact me at [valerius@ohsu.edu](mailto:valerius@ohsu.edu)

### **OrHIMA Donation to AHIMA Not-So-Silent Auction**

Each year, AHIMA asks the Component State Associations (CSA's) to donate an item for the Silent Auction at the annual AHIMA convention. The funds raised in the auction benefit the Foundation Merit Scholarship program. A total of 72 scholarships totaling \$94,650 were awarded in 2010. OrHIMA donates a gift each year that represents our state and its unique qualities. This year an Oregon artist, Amerinda Alpern, donated a print of a beautiful quilt she made. We thought you might like to know more about her, in her own words.

"I started painting as a child in kindergarten as most kids do, but in my case I didn't stop. I was exposed to art as a child; my grandmother owned a art gallery when I was going up. Why am I interested in art? I can't answer the question. Art-making is one of the great driving forces in my life. I can't imagine a life without it. I've explored many mediums: paint, glass, fiber, rubber, metal and including video installation. The video installation in particular, was explored during my work at University of Colorado where I received my MFA.

The interplay of light and form is a constant source of inspiration to me, as is the transformation of light in its passage through day and night. My creative life is often influenced by my experience in nature. The other source, which is where this print of the original quilt was conceived, is my deep connection with friends. These special connections that bind us together is something I hold dear to my heart."

~~Amerinda Alpern



~~A picture of Amerinda's art

## Does Your AHIMA Member Profile Need Updating?

By Debra Harris, MA, RHIA, Communications Director  
[debra.harris@salemhealth.org](mailto:debra.harris@salemhealth.org)

Remember to update your member profile on AHIMA's website ([www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)) when you have a new email address so you will continue to receive OrHIMA communications. OrHIMA gets member contact information from AHIMA. When the AHIMA database is not current, we lose touch with members. If a fellow OrHIMA member is not receiving these communications, please remind them to update their AHIMA member profile.

## In Memory of Lillian Harms, RHIT

By Patrice Spath, BA, RHIT, OrHIMA President

Lillian Harms, a former OrHIMA member, passed away at her residence in Vancouver, WA on June 17, 2010 at the age of 89. Before her retirement, Lillian was the director of medical records at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Portland. Many HIT students at PCC got to know Lillian during directed practice rotations in her department. Lillian was a proud and committed supporter of the HIM profession. She served in many volunteer positions for our association, including President in 1977. She was recognized as a Distinguished Member in 1983.

## Calendar of Events

### OrHIMA Events:

- **Board of Director Meetings:**
  - October 1, 2010
  - December 3, 2010
  - January 7, 2011
  - February 4, 2011
- **Coding Roundtables:** (second Friday of each third month)
  - October 8, 2010: Radiology Procedure Coding
  - January 14, 2011
  - April 8, 2011
- **Fall Institute:** September 10, 2010, Phoenix Inn, Albany
- **Annual Spring Meeting:**
  - May 19-21, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lake Oswego

### AHIMA Events:

- **Audio seminar/webinars:** (Further information can be found at <http://cop.ahima.org/COP/Public/Events/>)
  - **FY11 CMS IPPS Update: Sept. 2**
  - **FY11 ICD-9-CM Diagnosis and Procedure Code Updates: Sept. 14**
  - **FY11 Rehabilitation Coding and IRF PPS Update: Sept. 21**
  - **ARRA/HITECH: The New Relationship Between Covered Entities and Business Associates Repeat: September 30**
  - **Ongoing Challenges with HACs, POAs, and Never Events: October 7**
  - **Electronic Content and Records Management Strategies: October 12**

- **Clarifying HITECH: Accounting of Disclosures and Other Compliance Challenges: October 13**
- **An Overview of the AHIMA CDI Practice Brief and Ethical Standards: October 19**
- **The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) 2010 Work Plan: A Review: October 21**
- **ICD-10-PCS: Bridging the Gap in Anatomy and Physiology: October 28**
  
- **National Conventions:**
  - **2010 National Convention**, September 25-30, 2010, in Orlando, Florida
  - **2011 National Convention**, October 1-6, 2011, in Salt Lake City, Utah
  - **2012 National Convention**, September 26-Oct 4, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois